



PUGET SOUND  
SALMON COMMISSION

WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

PUGET SOUND  
SALMON  
COMMISSION

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March 13, 2006

Jeff Koenings, Director  
WDFW  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Jeff,

The 2006 PFMC and North Cape Falcon meetings are underway and I would like to give you an update on the Puget Sound Salmon Commission's marketing efforts.

You are already aware of our mission to increase the values of Washington's Puget Sound wild salmon and protect critical salmon stocks. Our diverse market plan has provided a solid foundation for us to successfully work from. Our markets now include direct consumer venues, such as farmers markets and off-boat sales. We also sell direct to local restaurants and retail outlets. Some fishermen have local and national distribution through distributors. There has also been an increase in the number of companies buying salmon on the water.

### **Increased Prices to Fishermen**

Since the inception of the Sound Catch program in 2002, Puget Sound salmon fishermen have experienced significant increases in the landed values of Puget Sound salmon (see Tables 1 and 2). In 2005 prices rose to an overall price of 59¢ per pound and of note, chum salmon prices increased to 43¢ per pound. These are the highest prices in five years. Also, values at all market levels have increased.

We look forward to continued and increased efforts in these areas and feel that full potential has yet to be reached. The WDFW has been very helpful assisting in our efforts by way of regulations. The current fall chum salmon season schedule that has been in place for three seasons, has worked very well and we would encourage the continuation of this policy.

We look forward to working closely with your staff to continue existing efforts and exploring new ones to increase the economic value of commercial salmon fisheries for the State of Washington.

We have and will continue every effort to achieve acceptable levels of impacts on ESA-listed and other low abundance salmon stocks of concern.

We hope that the salmon resource and our markets will be bountiful for our great State of Washington.

Sincerely,

David Harsila,  
PSSC Chairman

cc: Christine Gregoire, Governor  
WDFW Commissioners  
WDFW Personnel: Pat Pattillo, Tim Flint, John Long, Don Noviello  
Valoria Loveland, Director, Washington Dept. of Agriculture  
Keith Phillips, Governors Exec. Policy Advisor

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MAR 15 2006

WDFW  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

## Puget Sound Gillnet Fleet (Non-Indian) Price and Harvest Report

Table 1. All salmon species report

Year	Pounds Harvested	Value	Average Price/lb.
2005	1,268,571	\$750,804	59¢/lb.
2004	1,625,554	\$843,272	52¢/lb.
2003	1,092,388	\$423,252	39¢/lb.
2002	1,295,177	\$609,312	47¢/lb.
2001	1,481,627	\$581,431	39¢/lb.

Table 2. Chum salmon report

